

MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG DISCOUNT CARD

(Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, this week nearly 15.4 million seniors across the Nation are eligible to apply for a Medicare-approved prescription drug discount card. This is good news for older Americans, especially for those in my home State of New Jersey.

With the new discount card, over 300,000 more seniors in my State alone will be able to receive immediate medicine assistance. Most of the beneficiaries will save an average of between 10 and 25 percent off the retail price of their prescription drugs while low-income seniors will receive an additional \$600 of Federal credit towards the purchase of their medicines.

With the passage of this new Medicare law last November, we ensured that New Jersey and other States were not penalized, especially for having a preexisting drug assistance program that, quite frankly, is one of the most comprehensive and generous in the country. As a result of our efforts, not only will seniors save on their prescription medicines as promised, but our State of New Jersey will save an estimated \$4 billion over the next 10 years.

CONGRESS FAILS TO AGGRESSIVELY TAKE SERIOUS OVERSIGHT RESPONSIBILITIES

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, recent revelations about the abuses in Iraq illustrate problems not just with United States policy but with how Congress deals with its responsibilities.

Yes, there are problems with the Department of Defense, starting with Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld who is either out of the loop, who either does not know or places a low priority on these problems, things known for months and issues lingering for over a year.

Yes, there are problems with contracting out to private companies functions, fundamental core government activities, at great cost without accountability. But we should be concerned that Congress fails to aggressively take seriously our oversight responsibilities instead waiting for a pending article in *The New Yorker* to cut loose an avalanche of other news accounts.

There are at least a half dozen committees in this House that could be taking action. The American public, the Iraqi people, and our men and women in uniform deserve better.

TREATMENT OF IRAQI PRISONERS

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, as a military veteran, I was saddened and outraged to hear the stories this past week of physical and psychological abuse of Iraqi prisoners at the hands of U.S. soldiers.

This outrageous behavior goes against everything America stands for. It is a serious breach of military discipline. It is a disgusting and a shameful violation of human rights. It is un-American, and it jeopardizes the future freedom in Iraq and the Middle East, and it is sad that the 99.9 percent of the U.S. military which has conducted themselves honorably will now be defamed because of the actions of a few.

In a war for hearts and minds, these actions do not help, and those responsible should be held accountable; but let us remember the terrorists we are fighting.

In Saudi Arabia this weekend, terrorist extremists murdered five Western oil workers, tied one body to a car and drove around with it like a hood ornament. One terrorist murdered a pregnant woman and her four daughters, and then put a bullet in her stomach to make sure the job was complete. We remember the scenes from Iraq of the bodies of aid workers drug through the streets recently.

I have no doubt the U.S. will exact justice on our soldiers. If we could only get the terrorist extremists and their leaders to do the same.

HONORING ENRIQUE, JESUS, AND JULIO ZAPATA

(Mr. GRIJALVA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Enrique, Jesus and Julio Zapata, and in particular, their honorable service in the Vietnam War. I am proud to say these three brothers, who gave so much to our country, were born and raised in my district in the city of Nogales, Arizona.

During the Vietnam era, Enrique, Jesus and Julio made the courageous decision to enlist in the United States military.

Jesus Zapata served his tour of duty in Vietnam from June 4, 1965, to July 4, 1966. Enrique Zapata served two 6-month tours of duty in Vietnam with the United States Navy, enlisting July 20, 1964. Julio Zapata served in Vietnam from April 30, 1967, to April 30, 1968.

Our country owes a debt of gratitude to these fine citizens and the countless Vietnam veterans who have not been accorded the full respect and appreciation they deserve from our country. As I speak today, they sit in the gallery of the House of Representatives. I hope those of my colleagues who meet them will thank them and extend their appreciation from all of us for the service they gave this country.

On Cinco de Mayo, when we celebrate and acknowledge our diversity, let us

also acknowledge the shared sacrifice that all Americans have made for this country.

LIMITING FLOW OF LEGAL IMMIGRATION

(Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, while I believe that illegal immigration must be stopped, there is nothing wrong with allowing a moderate level of legal immigration. Immigrants have contributed greatly over the years to our Nation and our economy, and society should accommodate several hundred thousand new legal immigrants annually.

However, we can never realistically accept but a tiny fraction of the tens of millions who would love to migrate here each year, and we can no longer allow a million new legal immigrants to come and work here.

For starters, I believe that we need to reduce legal admission numbers by ending the visa lottery and the so-called extended family categories that fuel foreign worker inflow by chain immigration. A positive first step at reforming our outdated immigration laws would be to pass H.R. 775, the Goodlatte bill that repeals the visa lottery.

As a cosponsor of that bill, I urge the House of Representatives leadership and Committee on the Judiciary to act to bring the bill before the full House for action and to advance other legislation to cut down legal foreign worker inflows to more moderate levels.

MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG DISCOUNT CARDS

(Ms. BERKLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, when Congress passed the Medicare prescription drug bill, seniors expected real prescription drug coverage. Instead, seniors are receiving a sham discount card that guarantees no savings and will not lower drug costs.

Many seniors already use a drug discount card available at their pharmacies which provides savings up to 25 percent. Seniors are able to use as many cards as they need.

The Medicare discount card will limit the options available to our seniors. Seniors will be allowed only one card, and drug prices can vary week to week. In fact, drug companies are already starting to increase drug prices so they will not lose any money.

Democrats are committed to not only fighting for a prescription drug benefit for our seniors but for lower drug prices and giving seniors real choices.

The administration's drug benefit will mask inflated prices and give huge

subsidies to drug companies. I am disappointed, as a matter of fact I am heartsick, that many seniors who desperately need our help will not save one dime on their medication bills under this administration's program.

ADMINISTRATION HAS FAILED EDUCATION

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, when it comes to education, the administration's rhetoric is there, but it masks the reality. The administration waves a lot of papers and makes a lot of speeches, but they have failed education in America; and it is a required course.

Here are their test courses. The administration has an Education Secretary who calls the teachers' union "terrorists." The administration left every child behind when it grossly underfunded that essential education in the United States.

Today, we are celebrating and they are celebrating Cinco de Mayo, while they hide from the Hispanic community the fact that they have cut programs to promote staying in school, knowing that the high school dropout rate for Hispanics is four times higher than white students.

Come November we are going to enroll the President and the administration in a remedial rhetoric course to learn how to tell the truth.

□ 1030

HONORING GENERAL ZARAGOZA

(Mr. HINOJOSA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true hero who gave his life to free his country from foreign oppression. Ignacio Zaragoza Segun was born in 1829 near what is now Goliad, Texas, in my 15th Congressional District.

In 1862, French troops began to march to capture Mexico City. They met the Mexican forces at the city of Puebla in a battle that lasted the entire day of May 5, 1862. Under General Zaragoza's leadership, the vastly outnumbered Mexican Army forced the withdrawal of Napoleon III's Army, the premier army in the world at that time. French losses were heavy, but Mexican casualties were few. The costly delay in Puebla helped shorten the French intervention. It also helped preserve the American union, as it kept the French Army too busy to directly aid the Confederacy with troops during the U.S. Civil War.

General Zaragoza received a hero's welcome in Mexico City. While visiting his sick troops, he contacted typhoid fever and he died September 8, 1862, at

the age of 33. On September 11, 1862, President Juarez declared May 5, Cinco de Mayo, a national holiday.

Today, Cinco de Mayo is celebrated throughout Mexico and around the world, but I hope that as we celebrate this holiday, we remember the courage and sacrifice of this true hero.

EVENTS OF THE DAY

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, let me acknowledge the heroes of Cinco de Mayo Day, and all of my constituents and friends who are celebrating this day.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to acknowledge this is the national day to prevent teenage pregnancy, and to be able to say that from 1990 to 2000, the decrease in teenage pregnancy is seen at 28 percent.

Let me also congratulate the family of Mr. Hamill, who is now celebrating his return, and I acknowledge that because many of his friends and coworkers are in my congressional district. To them I say, what a celebration, but we pray for other hostages.

But I am so sorry that I stand here today really to challenge the tragedy of what has happened in the Iraqi prisons, not because those line soldiers, who I know have done a disgraceful act, are the only ones now being chastised, but because this administration believes that cameo appearances on the television are the solution to the tragedy of what happened, that that will correct the face of America in front of the million of Muslims and Iraqi people.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for the administration to come to this Congress and that there be full exposure to what happened, not in the back rooms of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence or some other committee, but in an open hearing of this Congress. Shame on this Congress if we do not demand a full briefing of what happened. It should not be behind the closed doors of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

EDUCATION IN AMERICA

(Mr. RUSH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, as we approach the 50th anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education, it is crucial that we examine the progress America's public school systems have made.

It seems to me although we live in different times, many fundamental challenges still remain. I, along with my Democratic colleagues, believe education is vital for students, parents and for our country. America needs strong leadership in education, one that will make up for 50 years of broken prom-

ises and unfinished business. Broken promises, such as the President's failure to increase funding for schools that remain \$9 billion short, broken promises such as the President's failure to increase Pell grants for our college students while Pell grants remain the same for a third year in a row.

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to education, the President shows up for photo-ops, he stands next to children and to teachers for a picture, but he does not show up nor does he stand up with them when it comes to improving schools in our Nation.

It is time for the President to be held accountable for promises made and promises broken. As we commemorate the 50th anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education, it is time to stop leaving millions of our children behind.

DO NOT OVERLOOK TRUE MEANING OF CINCO DE MAYO DAY

(Mr. BACA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Mexican patriots who gave their lives fighting valiantly and successfully against an overwhelming French army on May 5, 1862.

Celebrated as Cinco de Mayo, the true meaning of this holiday has been too often overlooked. Many celebrate with festivals, singing and dancing, but it is more than a party, it is about a proud heritage, cultural tradition and the freedom that was won. We as Americans and Hispanics celebrated Cinco de Mayo not just to honor the courage of those fighting for freedom, but also for its significance to the American ideal of self-determination, respect, justice and equality for all individuals.

Today, the struggle continues on, but we must come together as one Nation and one unit to respect each and every one of us. I yield back the balance of my time as we celebrate Cinco de Mayo, all coming together as one Nation and one country.

MIDDLE-CLASS ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2004

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 619 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 619

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 4227) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend to 2005 the alternative minimum tax relief available in 2003 and 2004 and to index such relief for inflation. The bill shall be considered as read for amendment. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate on the bill equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means; (2) the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in